



WASHOE COUNTY

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CM/ACM KS
Finance DN
DA N/A
Risk Mgt. N/A
Comptroller MS
Other N/A

STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: August 18, 2015

DATE: July 9, 2015
TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Rosemarie Entsminger, Fiscal Compliance Officer, Community Services Department Regional Parks, 328-2044, rentsminger@washoecounty.us
THROUGH: Ben Hutchins, Director, Finance and Administration Division Community Services Department, 954-4646, bhutchins@washoecounty.us
SUBJECT: Accept cash donations [\$567,478.31] from the Wilbur May Foundation; \$200,000 restricted for Fiscal Year 2015-16 general operating support of the Wilbur D. May Center, excluding all County overhead expense items, \$100,000 restricted to support Fiscal Year 2015-16 temporary exhibits at the Wilbur D. May Museum, \$1,660.31 restricted for employee training and \$265,818 restricted toward renovation of the May Museum Garden Court. (Commission District 3.)

SUMMARY

Accept cash donations [\$567,478.31] from the Wilbur May Foundation; \$200,000 restricted for Fiscal Year 2015-16 general operating support of the Wilbur D. May Center, excluding all County overhead expense items, \$100,000 restricted to support Fiscal Year 2015-16 temporary exhibits at the Wilbur D. May Museum, \$1,660.31 for employee training and \$265,818 toward renovation of the May Museum Garden Court.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Stewardship of our Community

PREVIOUS ACTION

On April 28, 2015, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) awarded a bid and approved the Agreement to Gill Construction, Inc. for the Wilbur May D. Museum Garden Room Retrofit project.

On February 10, 2015, the Board accepted cash donations of \$142,197.08 from the Wilbur May Foundation restricted for Wilbur D. May Center facility improvement projects, and underwriting specific operating costs for staff, travel, training and marketing.

On August 12, 2014, the Board accepted a total of \$300,000 in cash donations from the Wilbur May Foundation; \$200,000 for Fiscal Year 2014-15 general operating support of

AGENDA ITEM # 7C

the Wilbur D. May Center and \$100,000 in support of temporary exhibits at the Wilbur D. May Museum.

Support in the form of cash donations has been provided by the Wilbur May Foundation and accepted by the Board annually since Fiscal Year 1983-84.

BACKGROUND

Since our partnership with the Wilbur May Foundation began in Fiscal Year 1983-84, the Foundation has generously donated \$15.1 million in direct cash donations for site and programming improvements and operation support to Washoe County. The collection of artifacts on permanent loan to Washoe County in the Wilbur D. May Museum is priceless and the May Arboretum's mature horticulture comprises the most tree species-diverse area of Northern Nevada.

A recent tree inventory and computer model indicates that the aggregated benefit of the Arboretum trees (summing up the categories of reduced energy use, decrease in air pollution, erosion control and aesthetics) is \$150,000 per year and values the aggregated replacement value of the trees alone at over \$3 million dollars.

The current Fiscal Year 2015-16 donation provides \$300,000 in operating support for the Wilbur D. May Center. \$200,000 in general operations support is divided between the Wilbur D. May Museum (\$95,000) and the Wilbur D. May Arboretum and Botanical Garden (\$105,000). \$100,000 is specifically provided in support of traveling exhibits for the Museum. This donation is made with the restriction that no Wilbur May Foundation monies will be "used for any County overhead items."

The current contract between the Wilbur May Foundation and Washoe County contains a commitment to grant a total of \$200,000 each year as operating support to the Wilbur D. May Center at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2003-04, the Foundation began providing an additional \$50,000 annually to bring high quality, educational exhibits to the Wilbur D. May Museum; this was increased to \$100,000 in Fiscal Year 2007-08.

In addition to the annual operating support, the May Foundation provided \$1,660.31 to defray costs of the Assistant Museum Curator to attend a national conference.

The May Foundation has donated the funds needed for the Wilbur D. May Museum Garden Court Retrofit project. The project consisted of demolition of existing rock, faux rock and concrete, electrical, lighting, interior landscaping upgrades and the installation of new retaining walls and paver flooring. The Board awarded the bid for this work to Gill Construction on April 28, 2015 contingent upon funding from the May Foundation. The Foundation immediately committed the funds and Washoe County received it in two installments.

FISCAL IMPACT

All of the donations have been deposited in the “Wilbur D. May Museum Building Fund,” an independent account maintained by the Treasurer’s Office. In Fiscal Year 2015-16 quarterly installments of \$75,000 will be withdrawn from this account and deposited to the Museum in Other Restricted Fund 270-6, cost center 640200-484000 (\$48,750 quarterly), and the Arboretum, cost center 640300-484000 (\$26,250 quarterly).

Operating support in the amount of \$300,000 was anticipated and appropriated in the Fiscal Year 2015-16, Fund 270-6 budget. No additional financial adjustments are required.

Project expenses are distributed from the “Wilbur D. May Museum Building Fund,” to the appropriate vendors. Assets are recognized by the Comptroller’s Office at the completion of the project.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept cash donations [\$567,478.31] from the Wilbur May Foundation; \$200,000 restricted for Fiscal Year 2015-16 general operating support of the Wilbur D. May Center, excluding all County overhead expense items, \$100,000 restricted to support Fiscal Year 2015-16 temporary exhibits at the Wilbur D. May Museum, \$1,660.31 for employee training and \$265,818 toward renovation of the May Museum Garden Court.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff’s recommendation, a possible motion would be:

“Move to accept cash donations [\$567,478.31] from the Wilbur May Foundation; \$200,000 restricted for Fiscal Year 2015-16 general operating support of the Wilbur D. May Center, excluding all County overhead expense items, \$100,000 restricted to support Fiscal Year 2015-16 temporary exhibits at the Wilbur D. May Museum, \$1,660.31 for employee training and \$265,818 toward renovation of the May Museum Garden Court.”